

**NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE  
PRODUCT DESCRIPTION DOCUMENT (PDD)  
October 28, 2002**

**IFPS GRIDS TO CUSTOMERS**

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**GRIDS TO CUSTOMERS SERVICE**

**Part I - Mission Connection**

Product/Service Description - Advances in computer capabilities and web services technologies, as well as scientific advances in NWS software, have afforded the National Weather Service an opportunity to create customer-based products and services. The National Digital Forecast Database (NDFD) will allow NWS to provide near-real time, coordinated forecasts that are widely accessible in a gridded format.

Purpose/Intended Use - This experimental version of the NDFD is being made available to:

1. Allow users to get a feel for the specifics of the database (FTP location, format, geographic sectors, weather forecast elements, etc.
2. Receive feedback from those users on potential refinements to the NDFD.

Audience - The current audience for the NDFD is our large volume users of forecast information to provide constructive feedback that assist us in refining the database. The NDFD is not intended for redistribution or operational use at this time.

Presentation Format - The NDFD is presented in Version 2 GRIB format and can be readily decoded for those that wish to create derived products from the forecast parameters/values contained within the NDFD.

Feedback Method - We are always seeking to improve our products based on user feedback. Therefore, users of this experimental product are asked to complete the survey located at <http://products.weather.gov/>. The users should send their completed surveys are to [NWSProducts@noaa.gov](mailto:NWSProducts@noaa.gov). Comments will be compiled and evaluated by June 2003.

Technical questions may be addressed to:

National Weather Service Headquarters  
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**Part II - Technical Description**

Format and Science Basis - Initially the NDFD will make available data for two sectors within the conterminous United States at a spatial resolution of 5 kilometers. Data from additional sectors will be added to the NDFD periodically until the database is fully populated. Files will contain forecast for daytime maximum temperature, nighttime minimum temperature, probability of precipitation (PoP12), surface temperature, dewpoint, temperature, sky cover, wind direction, and wind speed out to 7 days.

Availability - Updates to the NDFD will be made available at the top of each hour. Forecast grids for the next day 7 will be introduced daily at 1800 UTC.

Additional Information - Files for the mid-Atlantic sector will contain forecast mosaics over the county warning areas of the following six NWS Weather Forecast Offices in the Eastern United States:

FFC - Atlanta Georgia  
GSP - Greenville/Spartanburg South Carolina  
JKL - Jackson Kentucky  
MRX - Knoxville/Tri Cities Tennessee  
RLX - Charleston West Virginia  
RNK - Blacksburg Virginia

Files for the Central Plains Sector will contain forecast mosaics over the county warning areas of the following seven NWS Weather Forecast Offices in the Central United States:

EAX - Kansas City Missouri  
ICT - Wichita Kansas  
OAX - Omaha Nebraska  
OUN - Oklahoma City/Norman Oklahoma  
SGF - Springfield Missouri  
TOP - Topeka Kansas  
TSA - Tulsa Oklahoma